

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00  
SIG-03 CEQ-01 IO-13 INT-05 SMI-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 NEA-10 /096 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/OCA:JKBARNES:LS  
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/OCA;MDBUSBY  
ARA/RPP:CFINNAN  
AF/S:WEATON  
EA/ANP:TWADGA  
EA/J:DBROWN  
EUR/RPE:WSALISBURY  
NOAA:WARON

-----128876 250734Z /13

P 242209Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE OWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:N/A  
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TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1, AR, AS, BR, CA, DA, FR, IC, MX,

SUBJECT: 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING

1. SINCE 1972 THE USG HAS SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC) OF A 10-YEAR

MORATORIUM ON ALL COMMERCIAL WHALING. THIS POSITION IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT (1) WHALES ARE ANIMALS WITH AESTHETIC, ECOLOGICAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND THEREFORE MUST BE CONSERVED IF THEY ARE TO PROVIDE THOSE BENEFITS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS; AND (2) UTMOST CAUTION IS NECESSARY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE ANIMALS BECAUSE THE HISTORY OF THE IWC HAS BEEN THAT PROTECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TOO LATE AND THE RECOVERY OF MOST PROTECTED SPECIES HAS THEREFORE BEEN SLOW OR NONEXISTENT. PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING OF IWC (JUNE 1977) EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE CONSERVATION OF WHALES AND THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE USG FOR THE MORATORIUM AND A STRENGTHENED IWC.

2. THE MORATORIUM HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE REQUIRED THREE-FOURTHS MAJORITY OF IWC MEMBER NATIONS. (FYI: USG HAS NOT YET PRESSED MORATORIUM TO A VOTE BECAUSE PRELIMINARY COUNTS HAVE INDICATED PROPOSAL WOULD

LOSE. END FYI) USG IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PROPOSE THAT CONSIDERATION OF THIS MORATORIUM BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE IWC ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 26-30, 1978, IN LONDON. COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA ARE DUE TO THE IWC SECRETARY BY APRIL 14. ONE FACTOR IN DECIDING WHETHER TO PROPOSE THAT MORATORIUM BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER IWC MEMBER NATIONS ON MORATORIUM.

3. EMBASSIES REQUESTED TO PRESENT USG POSITION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TO ASCERTAIN POSITION OF HOST GOVERNMENT ON ADOPTION OF A 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ALL COMMERCIAL WHALING. AT THIS TIME, EMBASSIES SHOULD NOT PRESS HOST GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT USG POSITION ON MORATORIUM, BUT SHOULD POINT OUT ADVANTAGES FOR CONSERVATION OF WHALES AS NOTED IN PARA 1 ABOVE. SUCH SUPPORT IS OF COURSE MOST WELCOME. (FYI: USG STILL REVIEWING ALL ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY IWC IN JUNE AND WILL DETERMINE LATER WHICH ONES WE WISH TO ACTIVELY SEEK SUPPORT FOR. END FYI) WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY MARCH 30, SO USG CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO PROPOSE MORATORIUM QUESTION BE ADDED TO AGENDA IN TIME TO MEET IWC DEADLINE.

4. FYI: HOST GOVT MAY INDICATE THAT THEY FEEL THERE MIGHT BE SOME INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN USG SUPPORT OF MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING AND SUPPORT FOR LIMITED TAKE OF ENDANGERED BOWHEAD WHALE BY ALASKAN ESKIMOS. IF

HOST GOVT RAISES THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY SHOULD MERELY NOTE  
POINT AND SHOULD REPORT ON THIS AND ANY OTHER ISSUES  
RAISED BY HOST GOVT. END FYI. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MORATORIUM, WHALING, ENDANGERED SPECIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE077088  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JKBARNES:LS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780131-1014  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING  
**TAGS:** EFIS, SENV, AR, AS, BR, CA, DA, FR, IC, MX, IWC-1  
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**Review Markings:**  
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